July 19, 2010

Via Facsimile (202) 514-2836

Registration Unit
Counterespionage Section
National Security Division
U.S. Department of Justice
1st Floor – Public Office
1400 New York Avenue, NW- Suite 100
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Kurdistan Regional Government
Liaison Office – USA
Registration NO. 5783

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed is a press release dated July 16, 2010 for the above-entitled entity.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Slocum

JMS:ll
Enclosure

2010 JUL 20 AM 8:27

Statement on the fire at the Soma Hotel in Sulaimania

1 message

Qubad Talabani <qubad.talabani@krg.org>
Reply-To: qubad.talabani@krg.org
To: farakrg@gmail.com

Fri, Jul 16, 2010 at 12:27 PM

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PRESS RELEASE
JULY/16/2010

For Immediate Release
Contact:
ppd@krgusa.org
or +1-202-797-7575

Statement by the Office of Prime Minister Barham Salih on the fire at the Soma Hotel in Sulaimania

On 15th of July, 2010, a fire at the Hotel Soma in the city of Sulaimania resulted in the death of 28 people leaving 22 injured. The dead comprised of 14 Iraqi nationals and 14 foreign nationals.

The foreign nationals were from Canada, Australia, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Ecuador, Venezuela, Sri Lanka, Lebanon, Bangladesh, and Cambodia. One victim remains to be identified.

The President of the Kurdistan Region, Masoud Barzani, issued a statement of condolence and asked the authorities of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to investigate the cause of the fire and to take steps to prevent the re-occurrence of such a tragedy. The Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki has called the KRG Prime Minister Barham Salih with a message of sympathy and an offer of help to the KRG to deal with the tragedy.

Prime Minister, Barham Salih, has already visited the scene of the accident and the hospital where the injured are being treated.

The Prime Minister said: "Our hearts go out to the families of the victims of this tragic accident and we wish a speedy recovery to the injured."

He added: "I have ordered an immediate investigation into the accident to establish the caus of the fire and assess the emergency procedures that followed. We will spare no effort in making sure such tragedies do not occur in the future."

The Prime Minister also ordered an immediate review of fire safety measures at all public buildings in the city of Sulaimania and throughout the Kurdistan Region.

The KRG is working closely with the embassies and consulates of the countries concerned to inform the families of the deceased and facilitate the repatriation of their bodies.

About the Kurdistan Region

The Kurdistan Region is a constitutionally recognized region in federal Iraq. With a population of over 4 million and rapidly increasing, the three governorates of Duhok, Erbil and Sulaimania cover approximately 40,000 square miles. The Kurdistan Region is considered to be the safest, most stable Region in Iraq, and it is host to an ever expanding number of commercial and trade initiatives. For more information visit www.knowkurdistan.com

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NOTIFICATION: The Kurdistan Regional Government Liaison Office - U.S.A. is registered as an agent of the Kurdistan Regional Government under 22 U.S.C. § 611 et seq

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